Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 - canceled.

10. (Currently amended) A vibratable aperture plate comprising:

a plate body having a top surface, a bottom surface, and a plurality of apertures extending from the top surface to the bottom surface, wherein each aperture is defined by a tapered portion ~~generally conical cavity~~ which tapers inward ~~extends~~ from the bottom surface toward the top surface and a flared portion ~~dome shaped cavity~~ that extends from the top surface toward the bottom surface and that flares away from the tapered portion, and wherein the flared portion ~~dome shaped cavity~~ and the tapered portion ~~conical cavity~~ have the same axis of symmetry such that when a liquid is supplied to the bottom surface and the aperture plate is vibrated, liquid droplets are ejected through the flared portion.

11. (Original) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the plate body is constructed from materials selected from a group consisting of palladium, palladium nickel and palladium alloys.

12. (Original) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the plate body includes a portion that is dome shaped in geometry.

13. (Original) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the plate body has a thickness in the range from about 20 microns to about 70 microns.

14. (Original) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the apertures have an exit angle that is in the range from about 41° to about 49°.

Claims 15-30 - canceled.

31. (Currently amended) An aperture plate comprising:

a plate body having a top surface, a bottom surface, and a plurality of apertures extending from the top surface to the bottom surface, wherein the apertures each include an upper portion and a lower portion, wherein the lower portion extends upwardly from the bottom

surface and is generally concave in geometry, and wherein the upper portion is tapered in a direction from the top surface to the bottom surface and ~~intersections~~ intersects with the lower portion which flares outward such that when a liquid is supplied to the top surface and the aperture plate is vibrated, liquid passes through the upper portion and is ejected through the lower portion as liquid droplets.

32. (Original) An aperture plate as in claim 31, wherein upper portion has an angle of taper that is in the range from about 30° to about 60° at the intersection with the lower portion, and a diameter that is in the range from about 1 micron to about 10 microns at the intersection with the lower portion.

33. (Original) An aperture plate as in claim 32, wherein the lower portion has a diameter at the lower surface that is in the range from about 20 microns to about 200 microns, a height in the range from about 4 microns to about 20 microns.

34. (Original) An aperture plate as in claim 31, wherein the bottom surface is adapted to receive a liquid, and wherein the plate body is vibratable to eject liquid droplets from the front surface.

Claim 35 - canceled.

36. (Currently amended). An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the diameter of the tapered portion ~~conical cavity~~ is at least about 1 micron.

37. (Currently amended) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the flared portion ~~dome shaped cavity~~ has a height that is approximately one-third of the thickness of the plate body.

38. (Previously added) An aperture plate as in claim 10, wherein the plate body has a thickness of at least about 20 microns.